Discussion Questions for "The Test Of The Tongue"

James 3:1-12, Pastor Trey Sonnenberg, Weekend of November 22, 2026

Outline

3 Warnings Of The Tongue:

1 - Words are hard to control. (Vs. 1-2)

2 - Words are powerful and matter. (Vs. 3-5)

3 – Words defile a man. (Vs. 6-8)

Our Inconsistent Existence (Vs. 9-12)

Wisdom From Above (Vs. 17)

Questions

1. What has been your relationship with your "tongue" (think: your speech) throughout your life? *Restrained? Undisciplined? Ignorant? Cautious? Free-flowing? Etc.*

2. Why does James single out teachers when talking about the tongue and the power of words? In what way are we all "teachers" as believers in Jesus Christ?

3. James refers to a horse's bit and a ship's rudder when describing the directive control that our tongues display. Why these analogies, and what others can you think of?

4. How have you seen the destructive power of words in your life and in your relationships—the wildfire that James talks about in verse 5?

5. What has been the most incredible "taming" that you have witnessed in your life? *An elephant at the circus? A particular dog? A tiger at the zoo?* Why was it so memorable?

6. Consider the Romans 3 passage again (vs. 9-26, especially 10-20). How do Paul and James speak in one accord?

7. James describes an inconsistent person, one who wrestles within themselves in verses 10-12. How might this describe how you feel at times?

8. Read Matthew 15:1-20. What is Jesus' point here? Why is He saying it to the Pharisees and scribes? And how might what James is saying relate?

9. How does Jesus' speech and his restraint with regard to His words bring great joy to us?

10. What is one thing this week that you can do to ensure more discipline in your speech?